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**NEWS RELEASE**

# Judd Gregg

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **GREGG STANDS UP IN SUPPORT OF PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

WASHINGTON— U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) today cosponsored a Senate resolution expressing support for the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in schools. In June 2002, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit, encompassing the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon and Washington, ruled in a 2-1 decision that a daily recitation in schools of the Pledge of Allegiance that contains the phrase “One nation, under God,” violates the Constitution’s freedom of religion clause. This ruling is set to go into effect next Monday. The Senate resolution introduced today expresses strong disapproval of the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit three-judge panel’s decision and the decision of the full 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit court not to rehear the case.

Senator Gregg commented, “The decision by the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit is an outrageous decision that is an insult to our country and our people and that reflects political correctness carried out to its most absurd extreme. If it is not promptly reversed by the Supreme Court, then clearly Congress should pass a Constitutional Amendment that would make it clear that Americans have the right to declare their allegiance to our nation as ‘One nation, under God, indivisible.’ Right now we are at war against individuals and groups who want to kill Americans and destroy the freedoms of the American way of life. This is a time for us to stand together united, and to recognize the men and women who are on the front lines protecting our liberties. The 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit’s slap in the face of the symbol of America is just plain wrong.”

The case, *Newdow vs. U.S.*, began when Michael Newdow, an atheist, sued his daughter’s school district, the Elk Grove Unified School District, over his protest that her having to be in the room while her classmates voluntarily recited the pledge violated her religious liberty. Yesterday, the Elk Grove Unified School District announced that it will ask the Supreme Court to overturn the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit’s decision.

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